

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Tatmadaw decides to further strive for ensuring genuine democracy and disciplined and firm democracy: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the military academic officers, officers, other ranks and family members from PyinOoLwin Station at the Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin on 14 September 2021.

THE primary duty of the Tatmadaw is to defend the State, and it is now temporarily serving the State responsibilities due to the needs. The military discipline is the backbone of the Tatmadaw, so, all need to be disciplined and obedient servicemen. They should strive

for serving the interests of the respective military units, the Tatmadaw, the region and the state as much as they can while controlling their minds, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with

senior officer instructors, senior officer lecturers, medical specialists, faculty members, officers, other ranks and families from PyinOoLwin Station at the Convocation Hall of the Defence Services Academy yesterday afternoon.

Speaking at the meeting, the Senior General said

as the tremendous errors of voter lists which may cause the voting frauds in the 2020 multiparty democratic general election were found, reports were submitted to different levels of responsible organizations for solving them. But, no one solving it was done, and attempts were made to seize

the State powers through incorrect ways by convening the Third Hluttaw. So, the Tatmadaw politically declared the nation as the State of Emergency and temporarily took the State responsibilities handed over by the Pro Tem President.

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Public Notification on buildings where terrorists involved in terrorist attacks are permitted to stay temporarily or to take refuge

TERRORIST organizations such as CRPH, NUG, PDF, and their affiliates have been carrying out terrorist acts and arson attacks across the country to disrupt the cooperation of the people and the ethnic nationalities with the State Administration Council which has set future roadmaps for the development, stability and security of the State. In doing so, it is found that they have rented apartments and houses to hide while committing destructive acts in the country.

For example, on 8 June 2021, 25 assorted weapons, 72 hand grenades, 71 fuses, 14 assorted bullets, 156 TNT cartridges, 540 detonators, 4 boxes including 2 bullet belts, 27 12mm cartridges (without ammunition), 25 12mm cartridges (with ammunition), 3 bullet belts, 3,285 assorted bullets, were found and seized from a one storey house rented by terrorists in Ywaysu (west) Village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region.

At around 8:15 am on 22 June, according to the report, security forces inspected the house rented by terrorists at No 116/Pha-19, 54th street and 111 (E) road, Htun-tone ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay. While inspecting, the security forces were attacked by home grenades and guns from the house, and some members of the security forces were killed/injured and 6 terrorists were killed. A total of 8 armed terrorists were arrested with a large number of weapons and ammunition.

Similarly, at around 4:15 pm on 14 August, members of security forces on the Insein circular train were attacked while the train arrived between Ahlon station and Pan Hlaing station. Due to the armed attack by the terrorists, 5 members of security forces were killed and one was injured. The terrorists who took 4 guns and some ammunition were arrested in houses and apartments temporarily rented by them in Yangon.

The above incidents were investigated and it was discovered that terrorists conspired to commit acts of violence by temporarily renting houses or apartments. Therefore, landlords are required to report the accurate information of the tenants with complete documents under Section 17 of the Ward/Village-Tract Administration Law, and to cooperate by notifying the relevant authorities in a timely manner if they find that their tenants are suspicious.

As landlords will be responsible if their tenants are found to have committed acts of violence, and no tenants list and information had been lodged with the relevant ward/village tract administration office while renting the apartment, please be informed that they will be taken action under the existing law. In addition, the rented house or apartment will be confiscated as evidence under the Counter-Terrorism Law and will be confiscated as State Treasury as a result of the investigation.

Anti-Terrorism Central Committee

Kunlong Bridge project on Hsenwi-Kunlong-Chinshwehaw Road completed by 25%

THE construction of the China-aided Kunlong Bridge in northern Shan State is now 25 per cent complete, according to the Ministry of Construction.

The bridge project is being implemented on Hsenwi-Kunlong-Chinshwehaw road (49/6 milepost) in Kunlong Township of Lashio District at the cost of 137.00 million yuan of Chinese funds. The old suspension bridge was constructed in 1964 by Chinese engineers and now has a weight restriction of up to only 25 tonnes for ageing. Therefore, the new bridge is

being constructed, according to the Deputy Director of Bridge Task Force (4).

The new 286-metre-long Kunlong bridge is constructed by the Chinese engineers and workers of China Yunnan Sunny Road & Bridge Company Ltd under the supervision of the Ministry of Construction.

The 6-span Box Girder type bridge is 12 metres in width, and the approach road is 3.54 kilometres long on the Kunlong side and 435 metres long on the Hsenwi side. It has a load capacity of 75 tonnes. The opera-

tion of bored pile drilling will be conducted in coming January.

"About 2,000 lorries from China pass the Chinshwehaw border camps daily and it causes huge traffic jams and delays in trading of Kunlong township. Then, the second-largest trade camp is Chinshwehaw after Muse camp.

The old Kunlong bridge is over 50 years old and China makes an offer that they will assist a new bridge near the downstream of the old one. And now, the new bridge is being constructed under the bilateral



Aerial view from the Kunlong side.



Construction site of the Kunlong Bridge.



Foundation work is underway.

agreement.

Once completed, there would be a major trade route to Myanmar via Chinshwehaw border trade camp," said the Deputy Director.

The Lashio-Hsenwi-Kunlong-Chinshwehaw road section will be the main trade route be-

tween China and Myanmar and it can improve bilateral trade.

The new bridge project was implemented as of 10 December 2019 and slated for completion on 10 December 2022, according to the ministry. — Pwint Thitsar/GNLM

Myanmar needs to operate agriculture and livestock tasks to earn foreign exchange via global market

MANY agro-based countries are striving for ensuring smooth food supplies and earning incomes. Myanmar needs to operate agriculture and livestock tasks to earn foreign exchange via the global market. The country grows some 15 million acres of monsoon and two million acres of summer paddy which would be sufficient for a 55 million population with much surplus of paddy to be exported to foreign countries. As per-acre yield does not reach 100 baskets of paddy, the export volume of rice does not meet the expectation.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 2/2021 of the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar made by Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 7-9-2021)

Tatmadaw decides to further strive for ensuring ...

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The Tatmadaw decides to further strive for ensuring genuine democracy and disciplined and firm democracy.

The Tatmadaw which formed the State Administration Council by adopting the five-point road map and nine objectives is prioritizing the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19. The infection of the pandemic was the highest in June and July with the high death rate. Efforts were made for a rapid supply of oxygen to the needed patients. At present, the infection rate is on the decline due to vaccinating the prioritized groups of people. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of officials, health staff and volunteers as well as people, the infection of the disease can be controlled at present.

Efforts are being made for soonest remedying the disease-battered businesses. Being an agro and livestock-based country, Myanmar is encouraging the manufacturing industries to have a high production rate. The high production rate will help increase the value of the products as well



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the military academic officers, officers, other ranks and family members from PyinOoLwin Station at the Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin on 14 September 2021.

der the COVID-19 restrictions. It can be seen that efforts are being made for the resumption of the closed factories.

The Tatmadaw, after taking the State responsibilities, arranged the opening of the

threats of the third wave caused by COVID-19. The government is striving for the reopening of the schools at a time when the pandemic can be thoroughly controlled. According to the census 2019, the number of people who had not learnt high school education and the illiterate rate was high. So, it is necessary to emphasize the education sector.

Emphasis is being placed on the implementation of the peace process in accord with the provisions of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. Since regaining independence, Myanmar has been facing armed conflicts based on political and ethnic diverse attitudes, so the government is striving for restoring the perpetual peace the entire people aspire. If the Tatmadaw has completed its tasks in accord with the provisions of the State of Emergency, it will hold the free and fair election

under the 2008 State Constitution.

The primary duty of the Tatmadaw is to defend the State, and it is now temporarily serving the State responsibilities due to the needs. The military discipline is the backbone of the Tatmadaw, so, all need to be disciplined and obedient servicemen. If they do not abide by the basic military tactics and arts of the military, they may face bitter experiences for having great losses on the battlefields. Hence, individual serviceman needs to take training for health, fitness and skills with good discipline and obedience.

It is necessary to observe the enhancement of the capacity of trainees and deploy them in the right positions. Priority must be given to the qualification rather than the quantity. It is necessary to turn out the officers and other ranks on whom the State and the Tatmadaw rely. Moreover, as 52

per cent population of the nation is women, arrangements were made for the emergence of female officers and other ranks to be able to shoulder with the armed forces from global countries.

Hence, officers, other ranks and families should strive for improvement of their lives by dutifully discharging the assignments. In so doing, they all need to try hard for their works with honesty and with the mind of satisfaction. The Senior General urged them to strive for serving the interests of the respective military units, the Tatmadaw, the region and the State as much as they can while controlling their minds.

The Senior General asked the needs of officers, other ranks and families who attended the ceremony and attended to the needs before cordially greeted them. —MNA

It is necessary to observe the enhancement of the capacity of trainees and deploy them in the right positions. Priority must be given to the qualification rather than the quantity. It is necessary to turn out the officers and other ranks on whom the State and the Tatmadaw rely.

as develop the manufacturers, employees and related businesses in addition to enhancement of State economy. Factories are allowed to resume operations un-

schools closed in the outbreak of COVID-19 for the interests of the State, parents and students. However, these schools were temporarily closed again for the

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing continues choice of arms for cadets of DSA



The Senior General has lunch with cadets.



The Senior General inspects the cadet hostels.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning continuously attended the ceremony of choice of arms for the 64th Intake of the Defence Services Academy at DSA in PyinOoLwin.

Also present at the ceremony were Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, Com-

mander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko Oo, the DSA commandant and officials.

They chose the appropriate military arms of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) for the cadets depending on their outstanding performances in acad-

emy and military arts, hobbies and efforts.

The Senior General and party inspected the cadet hostels, mess hall and kitchen. The commandant and officials conducted the Senior General and party around there. During the inspection, the Senior General instructed officials to systematically supervise the turning out of qualified and talented ca-

detas as the Defence Services Academy is a training ground for producing future leaders. It is necessary to systematically nurture them to have good practices on daily lifestyle for an officer.

Necessary military equipment must be issued to each cadet in set periods and those cadets must undergo training to systematically reside at the

hostels and use the equipment. Kitchen officials need to give daily foods under systematic calculation to the cadets, and it is necessary to keep the kitchens neat and tidy and attended to their needs.

The Senior General and party had lunch together with cadets at the mess hall of the Aung Zeya Battalion. — MNA



The cadet mess hall.

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ASEAN Economic Ministers hold Meetings with U.S., Hong Kong (China), India, EU, Russia Economic Ministers

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo attended the AEM-United States Trade Representative Consultations, 5th AEM-Hong Kong Consultations, 18th AEM-India Consultations, 17th AEM-EU Trade Commissioner Consultations and 10th AEM-Russia Consultations via videoconferencing started at 7:00 am from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Meetings were participated by ASEAN Economic Ministers, United States Trade Representative, Economic Ministers from Hong Kong (China), India, Russia, EU Trade Commissioner, ASEAN Secretary-General and officials. The Meetings were co-chaired by Dato Dr Amin Liew Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II of Brunie Darussalam and Trade and Economic Ministers from the respective dialogue partners.

At the AEM-United States Trade Representative Consultations, Mrs Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative and ASEAN Economic Ministers exchanged views on responses to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic between ASEAN and the United States and noted the progress of the implementation of the 2020-2021 ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) and Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Work Plan. The Ministers endorsed the TIFA E3 Work Plan (2021-2022) at the Meeting.

In his statement, the Union Minister shared the progress on prevention, control and treat-



The 53rd AEM Meeting and Related Meetings in progress.

ment of Covid-19 and the vaccination programme in Myanmar. He also emphasized the vital role of the digital economy in the post Covid-19 economic recovery and encouraged to support the MSMEs through the reskilling and upskilling programme to apply digital technology.

The 5th AEM-Hong Kong, China Consultations were also held and Mr Edward Yau Tangwah, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of Hong-Kong and ASEAN Economic Ministers exchanged views on the responses to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and welcomed the entry into force of the ASEAN-Hong Kong (China) Free Trade Agreement (AHKFTA) and ASEAN-Hong Kong (China) Investment Agreement (AHKIA) by all parties. The Ministers endorsed the proposal to expand the new areas of cooperation: sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures; standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures (STRACAP); intellectual property; digital technology to facil-

itate trade; and promotion and facilitation of investment in the Work Programme and noted the progress of implementation of projects under ECOTECH Work Programme (2020-2021).

At the Meeting, the Union Minister welcomed Cambodia's completion of the ratification process for the entry into force for AHKFTA and AHKIA and appreciated the ratification for both Agreements by all Parties. The Ministers welcomed Hong Kong's interest in seeking accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

18th AEM-India Consultations was also held in the afternoon. At the Meeting, Anupriya Patel, Minister of Commerce and Industry of India and ASEAN Economic Ministers discussed the cooperation activities to respond to the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the issues raised by the ASEAN-India Business Council and the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN-India FTA.

At the Meeting, Union Minister shared the situation

of the Covid-19 pandemic and vaccination programme in Myanmar and he also updated the government's efforts to recover the country's economy by developing Myanmar Economic Recovery Plan (MERP) which is in line with UN SDGs and regional and sub-regional integration programmes. He also expressed thanks to India for the support of vaccines and other medical supplies.

The 17th AEM - EU Trade Commissioner Consultations was held and Mr Valdis Dombrovskis, EU Trade Commissioner and ASEAN Economic Ministers exchanged views on the role of the World Trade Organization to the responses for the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and progress on the consultation for the development of a Framework Setting Out the Parameters of a Future ASEAN-EU FTA. The Ministers endorsed ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme 2020-2021 at the Meeting.

In his intervention, the Union Minister underscored the critical role of WTO in the post-

COVID-19 pandemic recovery and the collective efforts of the countries to keep global trade flows open in order to facilitate goods and services, especially for medical supplies. In addition, he encouraged the officials to continue their discussion for the development of a Framework setting out the parameters for a future ASEAN-EU FTA especially in the areas where considerable gaps still remain between ASEAN and EU.

At the 10th AEM - Russia Consultations, H.E. Vladimir Ilyichev, Deputy Minister for Economic Development of Russia and ASEAN Economic Ministers exchanged views on responses to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in their respective countries and noted the progress of Post-2017 ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Work Programme and Programme of Cooperation between ASEAN and Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) for 2020-2025. The Ministers endorsed the revised ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap and the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Work Programme (2021-2025).

At the Meeting, the Union Minister shared the view of the importance of the cooperation activities in trade and digital economy and sustainable development under work programme for the post-COVID-19 economic recovery. The Ministers adopted the Joint Media Statements of the respective meetings.

Together with the Union Minister, Deputy Minister and Senior Officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations also attended the Meetings. —MNA

One-stop service to be launched at Pwaytaung Coffee Farm

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi and Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Maung Ko inspected Doekwin farm in PyinOoLwin Township to ensure the plantation of medicinal orchids, production of vegetable seeds, researches and quality planting tech-

niques yesterday.

During the visit, Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo discussed the exchange of orchid species planted at Doekwin farm with region orchid and medicinal orchid grown at Kandawgyi Botanical Garden.

Then, the Union Ministers went to Pwaytaung Coffee farm and discussed One-Stop Service to provide techniques for coffee farming and the

need to follow the regulations for coffee cultivation in a forest areas with the officials of the Myanmar Coffee Association.

The coffee research and preservation are conducted at Pwaytaung Coffee farm which was established in 1953. The upgrade works will be made for the people to study the coffee at a single place.

Then, they visited Sinlan

Dam constructed near Sinlan Village of PyinOoLwin and inspected the water in the dam, strength, water storage and daily water distribution system.

The Sinlan dam distributes 1.5 million gallons of water to PyinOoLwin Township and the embankment is upgraded to 6 more ft in height, and now distributes 2.5 million gallons daily. — MNA

2,421 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 September, total figure rises to 436,527

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 436,527 after 2,421 new cases were reported on 14 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 385,870 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 16,693 after 76 died.

Statement to appreciate teachers' efforts

TEACHERS are honoured as part of the Five Infinite Venerables, and the manner of paying respect to the teachers can be only seen in Myanmar as a tradition. The teachers teach their pupils based on their goodwill like their own children and dutifully serve a teacher's duties. They must train their pupils and students in the best discipline. They see that they grasp their lessons well. They instruct them in the arts and sciences, they provide for their safety in every quarter, and they introduce them to their friends and associates.

As the COVID-19 infection rate is controlled to a certain extent, the basic education high, middle and primary schools under the Department of Basic Education have reopened across nation for the 2021-2022 academic year starting 1 June.

Those who want to seek good sake of one party, political extremist NLD members and supporters, NUG, CRPH and PDF committed arson attacks at the schools using mines, homemade bombs and grenades to fail the teaching processes, and threatened the teachers in addition to the incitements, social punishment and threats against education staff to join CDM while the officials made preparations for the reopening of schools and during the current teaching period. Their doings left some casualties, and the State Administration Council has expressed its deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims' families.

The SAC also appreciates the concerted efforts of teachers, who understand two virtues, Hiri — shame at doing evil —and Otappa—fear of the results of doing evil—for teaching the new generations of the country amid such difficulties and challenges.

The security forces will take extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of teachers who are making efforts in the academic sector for the next generations in order to promote the education qualification. The people should keep security awareness and cooperate with the security members in community peace and peaceful learning of children.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Suspects nabbed in AYA bank robbery in Bago

Weapons, ammunition confiscated; over K3.94 billion recovered

THE PDF terrorist group robbed more than K4 billion from the Ayeyawady Bank (AYA Bank) on the road near Buleinn village, in Bago Region and due to the cooperation between the people and the security forces, K 3,885 million were recovered and the suspects were arrested within 9 hours.

The arrested suspects revealed that the related suspects were in a house in the Railway Housing compound in Mazin ward, Bago Region. When security forces searched the house at 1:25 pm, Han Win Zaw (a) Kalar Gyi, Chin Lin Zaw (a) Baw Lone, Aung Kyaw and Sithu Phyo, were found and arrested together with K 1 million, and 1 hand grenade.

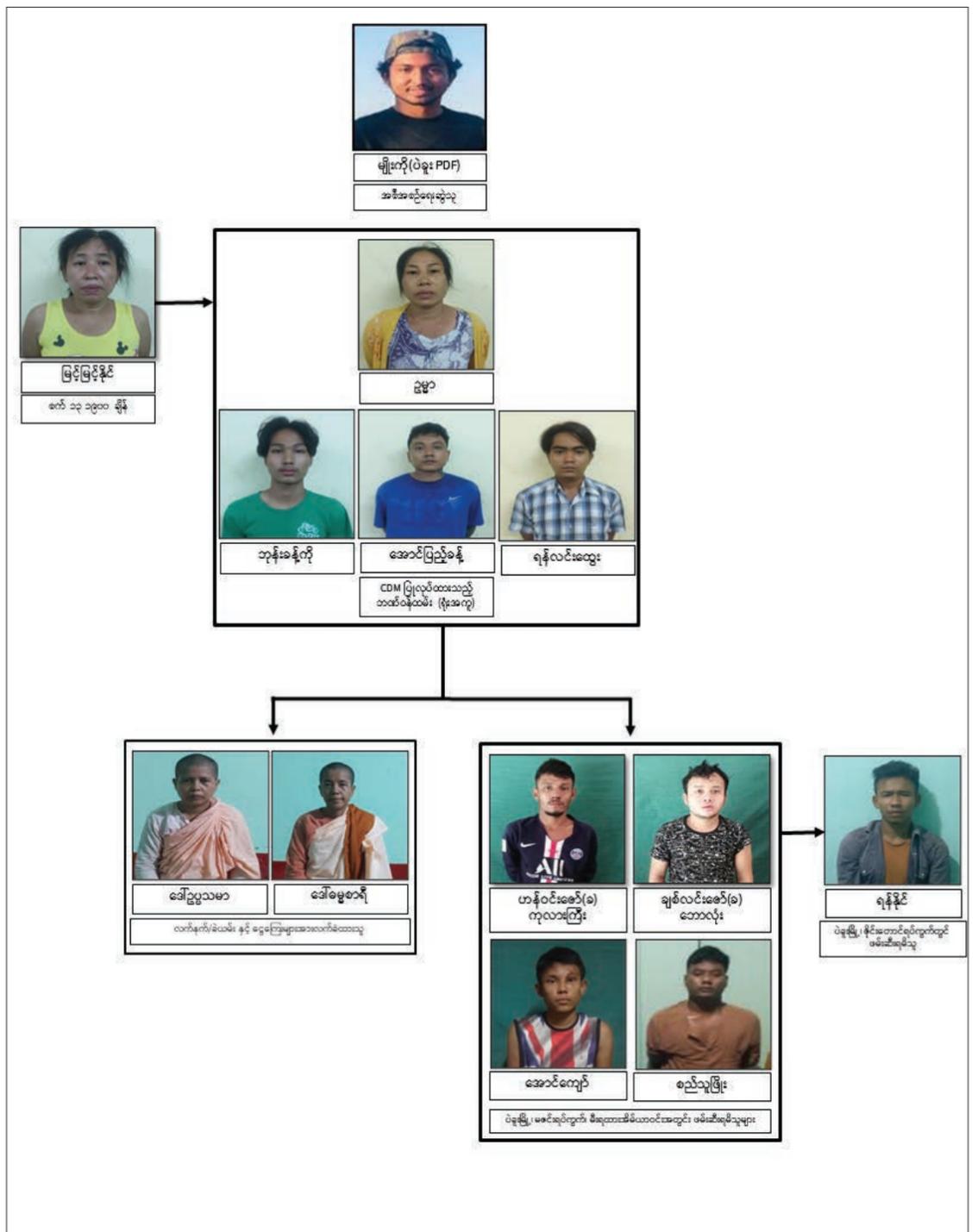
At 2:30 pm, Yan Naing, a related suspect, was arrested in front of "Kaung Kyaik Biryani shop" in Zinetaung ward, on Yangon-Mandalay Highway road, in Bago.

Following the confession made by the arrested related

suspects, security forces conducted a search operation in "Damma Duta" nunnery in the ward (8), Uttha Myothit, and found and confiscated 1 Remington Model 700 gun and K 55 million which were secretly kept in the refectory.

Including the suspects arrested on the night of 13 September, a total of 8 men, 4 women were arrested in connection with the robbery; 1 M-79 launcher, 2 AK-47 guns, 4 magazines, 220 rounds of ammunition, 6 MK-12 guns, 12 assorted magazines, 1 Remington Model 700 gun, 1 hand grenade and other related materials were confiscated. In addition, of K4 billion robbed from the bank vehicle, a total of K39,41 million (over K3.94 billion) were recovered.

It is reported that effective action will be taken against the arrested robbers under the law and the confiscated weapons, ammunition and materials will be processed in line with the procedures. — MNA



Seized firearm.

Apprehended suspects.

PDF terrorists commit bank heist in Bago

Security forces nab 7 suspects within 9 hours with looted K3.94 billion

SEVEN people robbed about K4 billion from AYA Bank staff who were carrying in two cars in Bago Region on 13 September.

AYA Bank's Supervisor of Yangon branch U Min Min Oo carried the K2 million in Toyota Hiace with the driver U Saw Ni Ko Latt while another K2 million was carried by bank's peon U Win Lwin Myint, security Chit San Maung and driver Myo Kyaw Thu in another Toyota Hiace from AYA Bank branch (1) of Bago to Yangon. When the two vehicles arrived at milepost 25/5 of old Yangon-Mandalay highway, they were stopped by seven people – one in traffic police suit, two in police uniform holding guns and four in civilian clothes. They covered the eyes, mouths and hands of victims with tapes and took the money and three mobile phones of bank staff, and ran away in Hijet.

The bank officials informed the security members about the case and they investigated without any delays. Within five hours, the security forces arrested the suspect Myint Myint Naing, who

gave the uniforms to the suspects for robbery, in Mazin Ward of Bago.

Myint Myint Naing admitted that there were suspected men at the house of Ohmar located at Maha Zedi 10/(a-3). The police raided the house and arrested Yan Lin Htwe, Aung Pye Khant and Phone Khant Ko including Ohmar together with 1 M-79 launcher and about K70 million. Another suspect Si Thu Pyo was still at large.

According to the confessions of suspects, the firearms/ammunition and money were kept at Dhamma Duta Nunnery in Oktha Myothit, and the police found Daw Uppasama and Daw Dhammacari, and seized 2AK-47 guns, 4 magazines, 220 bullets, 6 MK-12 guns, 12 long/short magazines, 6 pairs of gun-related materials, 14 bags containing money, 2 pieces of gunny and 9 small plastic bags at 10:30 pm.

The police also went to a house located in Butar Yone street of Mazin Ward at 11 pm to arrest Kalar Gyi. They did not find the suspected and confiscat-

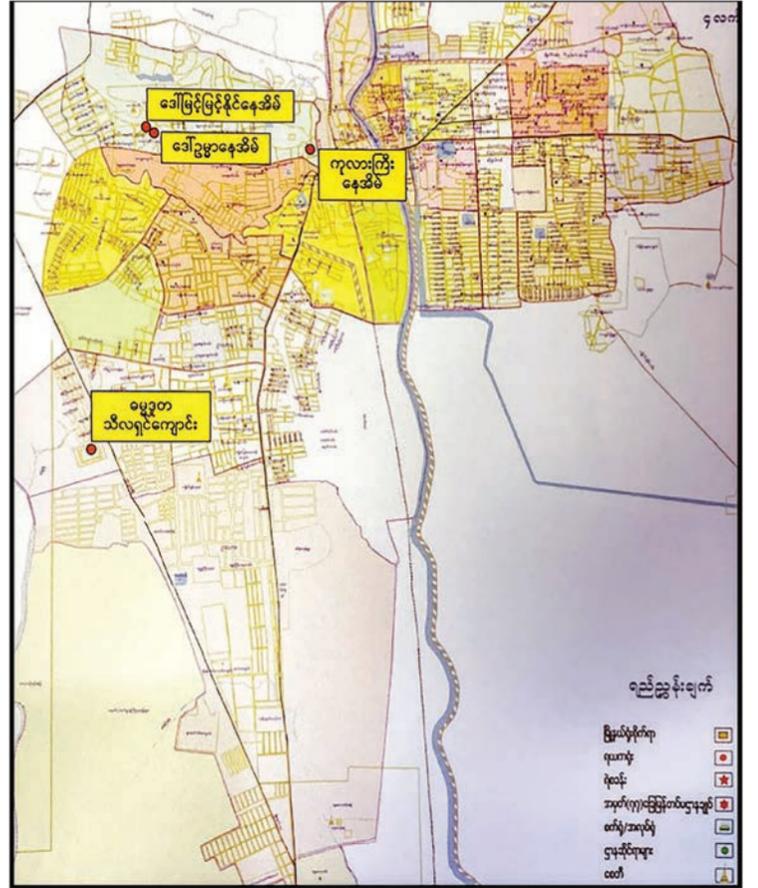
ed 10 keypad phones, mine-related materials and 17 packs of K10,000 notes.

In this case, 7 suspects— 3 males and 4 females, 1 M-79 launcher, 2 AK-47 rifles, 4 magazines, 220 bullets, 6 MK-12 rifles, 12 types of magazines, other materials and K4,000 million were discovered just within nine hours after the incident by the security forces due to their timely efforts and report of dutiful people at the risk of their lives.

It is learnt that the people in Bago and surrounding areas have increased their trust in security members, who uncovered the crimes with great perseverance, for their security affairs than before.

The robbery was arranged by Myo Ko, in charge of Bago PDF. The currently arrested suspects were the members of PDF and Aung Pyae Khant was the CDM staff (peon) of AYA Bank, Bago branch.

The recent bank robbery and other acts of terrorism, including the announcement of the D-Day by the terrorist group



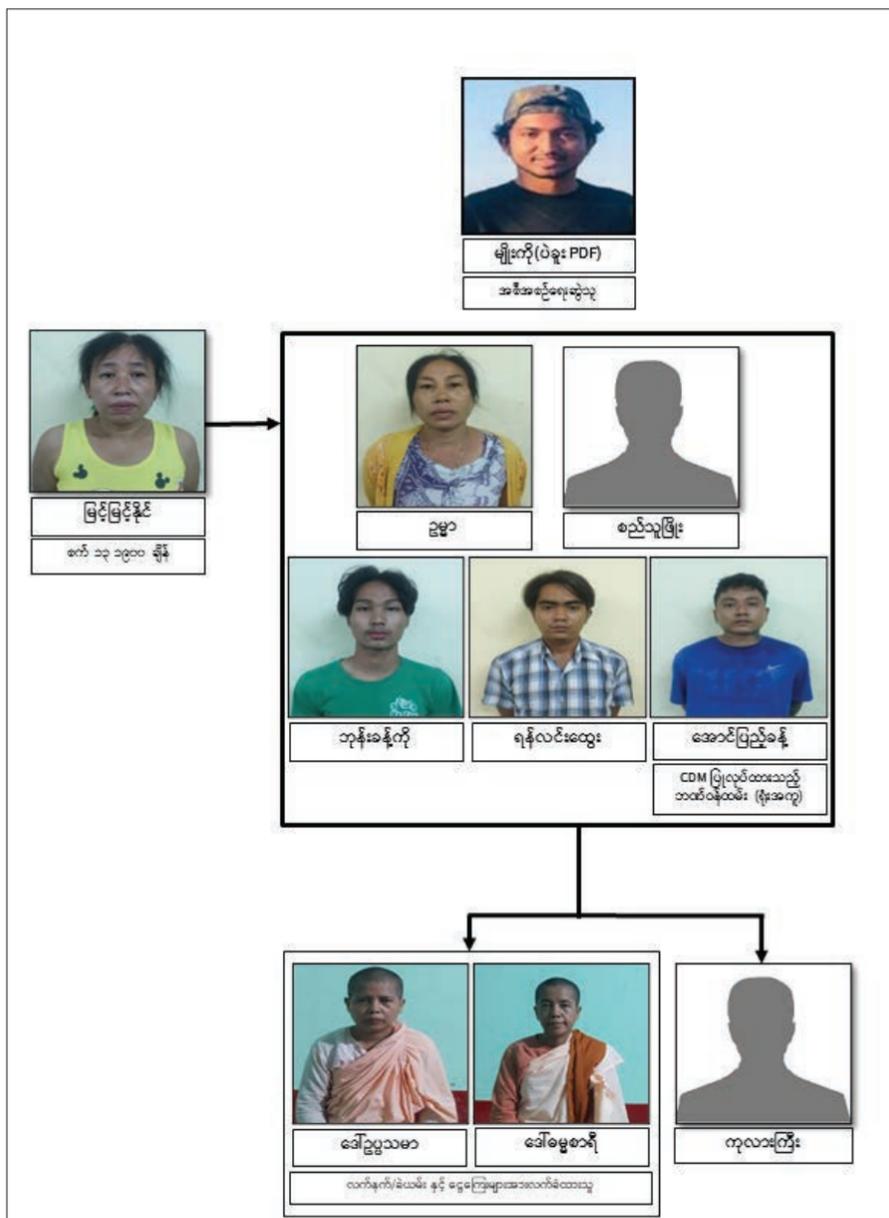
Location map where bank robbers are arrested.



Seized firearms.



Arrestees are seen with looted K3.94 billion, weapons and ammunition.



Apprehended suspects.

NUG coincided with the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly which begins on 14 September, and such doings are political subterfuges aimed at making the leaders aware of the instability in political, economy and security of the country.

The uncovering of the robbery case within 9 hours showed good cooperation of the security members and dutiful people and a sign that counteracted the wrongdoings of unscrupulous persons.

The arrested suspects will face legal actions under the law. The security force will also investigate to arrest the absconders. Moreover, announcements are also released that the entire people can participate in fight terrorism and arresting perpetrators as quickly as possible, secretly report to the officials about their hiding places and activities, and the whistle-blowers and those who help arrest the suspects will be covertly rewarded. — MNA

Carefully nurture children to become outstanding adults

ASAYING everybody knows goes: “today’s children will be tomorrow’s adults”. The nature of children is like wax which can be carved into any shape of structure as hoped. Their future lives depend on the skills of parents and guardians.

In fact, those parents and guardians have to improve their skills in patience, tolerance, sympathy, mercy and compassion, and knowledge of how to nurture the children and how to educate the children for gradual improvement of their nature. It is of great importance for arranging the lives of children to a brighter future.

Parents and guardians need to gradually guide the children to the proper ways which can improve their physical and mental behaviours based on high intelligence quotient-IQ and emotional intelligence-EQ to be able to be applied in their real lives. The two are very important for all children as they have to concern with the participants of the society along with their life. In fact, all the children hope the motherly spirit of parents and guardians in the daily process.

Adults, as well as parents, need to share appropriate information with the children. Those children must be allowed to enjoy the taste of the environment. A suitable level of learning opportunity must be created for the children. In this regard, learning subjects must be able to improve their skills, especially their critical thinking.

Parents and guardians need to take care of children’s daily progress. The whole situation of children depends on the dutiful nurturing of those parents and guardians. Chances must be given to the children for playing, singing, eating and talking with adults. The nature of children must be uplifted with additional knowledge suitable for the aged of children.

It is necessary to open the door for the children to see the outer world. Depending on the age of children, parents and guardians need to create the opportunity for studies of the children in the environs for enlarging their scopes. But all the processes must depend on the learning skills of children without hesitation.

The life of early childhood is in hands of the earliest trainers who really understand the nature of children. Especially, the trainers must give chances for children how to struggle for their survival. So, let’s nurture children to become outstanding adults having the capability to shape better environs.



No need for third jab booster: Study

Some countries have started offering extra doses over fears about the much more contagious Delta variant, causing the World Health Organization to call for a moratorium on third jabs amid concerns about vaccine supplies to poorer nations, where millions have yet to receive their first jab.

VACCINES are effective enough at preventing severe cases of COVID-19 that there is no current need for the general population to be given third doses, according to a report in The Lancet published Monday. Some countries have started offering extra doses over fears about the much more contagious Delta variant, causing the World Health Organization (WHO) to call for a moratorium on third jabs amid concerns about vaccine supplies to poorer nations, where millions have yet to receive their first jab.

The new report by scientists, including from the WHO, concluded that even with the threat of Delta, “booster doses for the general population are not appropriate at this stage in the pandemic”.

The authors, who reviewed observational studies and clinical trials, found that vaccines remain highly effective against severe symptoms of COVID-19, across all



Israel will offer those over the age of 60 who are already vaccinated against COVID-19 a third booster jab. A man receives a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine. PHOTO: JACK GUEZ/AFP

the main virus variants including Delta, although they had lower success in preventing asymptomatic cases of the disease.

“Taken as a whole, the currently available studies do not

provide credible evidence of substantially declining protection against severe disease, which is the primary goal of vaccination,” said lead author Ana-Maria Henoa-Restrepo, of the WHO.

She said vaccine doses should be prioritized to people around the world still waiting for a jab.

“If vaccines are deployed where they would do the most

good; they could hasten the end of the pandemic by inhibiting further evolution of variants,” she added.

Vaccine Divides

Countries like France have started distributing third jabs to the elderly and people with compromised immune systems, while Israel has gone further, offering children 12 and older a third dose five months after receiving a second jab.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has called on countries to avoid giving out extra COVID jabs until the end of the year as the United Nations (UN) health agency urges all nations to vaccinate at least 10 per cent of their populations by the end of this month, and at least 40 per cent by the end of this year.

The Lancet study concluded that the current variants had not developed sufficiently to escape the immune response provided

by vaccines currently in use.

The authors argue that if new virus mutations do emerge that are able to evade this response, it would be better to deliver specially modified vaccine boosters aimed at the newer variants, rather than a third dose of an existing vaccine.

A “very thorough review”

Commenting on the study Azra Ghani, Chair in Infectious Disease Epidemiology, at Imperial College London, described it as a “very thorough review” of current research.

But she said that while the reduction in efficacy of vaccines against variants like Delta might be small, when considered across a population it could still lead to “a substantial increase” in people needing hospitalisation.

SOURCE: AFP



U.S. doubles down on vaccination efforts as Delta variant drives COVID-19 surge

THE U.S. federal government is doubling down on COVID-19 vaccination efforts, including an on-going plan for booster shots, while more unvaccinated people fell victims to the Delta variant in recent weeks, and the pandemic is believed by health experts to become a routine illness in the United States.

DANGER FOR UNVACCINATED

A surge in COVID-19 deaths caused by the highly contagious Delta variant is hitting working-age people hard while highlighting the risks for people who remain unvaccinated, reported The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) on Monday.

Federal data showed that COVID-19 deaths among people under 55 have roughly matched highs near 1,800 a week set during last winter’s surge. These data showed weekly tallies for overall COVID-19 deaths, meanwhile, remain well under half of the pandemic peak near 26,000 reached in January.

The seven-day average for newly reported COVID-19 deaths each day recently eclipsed 1,600, up from an average that

briefly moved below 220 a day in early July. With roughly 660,000 known COVID-19 deaths to date, the United States is on track to “soon top the estimated 675,000 deaths that the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has linked to the 1918-19 flu pandemic,” said the report.

High vaccination rates among the elderly, who are more vulnerable to severe COVID-19 outcomes, are restraining the overall increase in deaths, and the change is shifting a larger share of deaths to younger populations with lower vaccination rates, underscoring the need to get more people inoculated to curb the pandemic, WSJ quoted experts as saying.

Deaths have been concentrated among the unvaccinated, federal data show. The CDC released studies on Friday showing that unvaccinated Americans were 4.6 times as likely to be infected, 10 times as likely to be hospitalized and 11 times as likely to die.

VACCINATION FOR IMMUNITY

COVID-19 may become a routine illness like a common cold or the flu one day, another WSJ report on Monday quot-

ed virologists and epidemiologists as saying. But it will take a lot to get there, and the ferocious spread of the Delta variant that has filled hospitals again showed how challenging that path could be.

“While surges are easing in some states, cases are rising in others. Delta is moving the world toward immunity against the virus at huge cost. With every new infection it is raising the risk of incubating a variant that might spread even faster, sicken with greater ferocity or evade vaccines,” said the report. Scientists are trying to figure out whether SARS-CoV-2 will form deadlier or more contagious new variants, and how the pandemic might end. Their best-case scenario isn’t anything as hopeful as eradication.

“Instead, many expect COVID-19 will become a routine disease like a common cold or the flu, rather than a cause of mass hospitalizations and deaths,” said the report. When or even whether COVID-19 settles into that status depends on how many more people get vaccinated and how soon, Adolfo Garcia-Sastre, director of the Global Health and Emerging Pathogens Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine



People check in to get a Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine at a pop-up vaccination centre at the beach, in South Beach, Florida. PHOTO: AFP

at Mount Sinai in New York, was quoted as saying.

MANDATES AND BOOSTER

Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told CNN on Sunday if more people aren’t persuaded to get vaccinated by messaging from health officials and “trusted political messengers,” additional

mandates from schools and businesses may be necessary.

“I believe that’s going to turn this around because I don’t think people are going to want to not go to work or not go to college — They’re going to do it,” said Fauci. “You’d like to have them do it on a totally voluntary basis, but if that doesn’t work, you’ve got to go to the alternatives.”

SOURCE: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (ISSUED at 7:00 pm Tuesday 14 September 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 15 September, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region and Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago Regions and (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Chin, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Lower Sagaing Region and isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay, Taninthayi Regions and Mon State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (6– 8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak to moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 September, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Flood Bulletin

(ISSUED at 09:00 hrs M.S.T on 14-9-2021)

Flood condition of Ngawun River

ACCORDING to the (08:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Thabaung at Ngawun River has exceeded by about (2) inches above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (12) hrs.

Advisory

IT is advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Thabaung Township, to take precaution measure.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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MoC allows daily import process of anti-COVID-19 devices, medical aids

THE Ministry of Commerce is making efforts to ensure people have access to the essential medical supplies that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, by arranging continuous importation with standard operating procedures.

On 14 September (Yesterday), anti-COVID-19 equipment, medical products including oxygen plants and concentrators were imported by 11 companies and transported by 24 vehicles, including two bowsers.

A total of 39 tonnes of oxygen (liquid) carried by two bowsers, 2,790 empty oxygen cylinders, 68 oxygen plants, 318 oxygen concentrators for home use, 50,240 sets of COVID-19 test kits, 7,300 PPE suits, 29 tonnes of gloves, and 63 tonnes of masks were imported via Muse, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Myawady trading posts and the Yangon International Airport.

Two vehicles carrying liquid oxygen plus 64 oxygen plants were transported to Yangon and one oxygen



Anti-COVID devices and medical supplies like oxygen cylinders (left photo) are daily imported via border trade zones.



plant each to Mandalay, Myitkyina, Phakant and Moegaung.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with

relevant departments, facilitating the importation of essential medical supplies required in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19,

as well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA



Lorries are transporting the imported medical aids to the needed regions.

Prices list of medicines commonly used against COVID-19 till 14-9-2021 September

No	Product Name	Pack Size	Price in Kyats (Retail)	Company Name
Anti-inflammatory				
1	PO Prednisolone	Box of 10x10	2,000	Aorta
2	Injection - Dexamethasone	Vial	160	Aorta
Antiviral				
3	PO Favipiravir 400 mg	2x10 Tablet	50,000	AA Medical
4	Injection - Remdesivir	Vial	70,000	GHI
Anti thrombosis				
5	Injection Enoxaprim 40 mg	1 Pre-Filled Syringe	7,000	Nyi Lay Naing
6	Injection Enoxaprim 60 mg	1 Pre-Filled Syringe	9,000	Nyi Lay Naing
Symptomatic				
7	PO Paracetamol 500 mg	10x10's tablets/Box	1,500	AA Medical
8	PO Dextromethophan	10x10's	1,450	AA Medical
9	PO Bromhexine	10x10's tablets/Box	1,000	Medi Myanmar
10	PO Cetrizine	10x10's / Box	2,200	AA Medical

Please visit the Website (www.mccpmd.org) and Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/323302521392189/posts/1720802588308835/?d=n> to know the prices of other medicines.

45-year-old and above get first shots in Pantawpyin Village of Maungtaw Township

THE people aged 45 and above from Pantawpyin Village in Maungtaw Township of Rakhine State received their first jabs of Sinopharm vaccines yesterday.

The officials conducted the vaccination processes in line with the health rules of the Ministry of Health, Township Administration Officers and other

relevant officials inspected the operation.

Before the vaccination, the staff of the General Administration Department collected data and the health workers monitored the body temperatures and blood pressures of the people and also watched them for 30 minutes after vaccination.

A total of 250 vaccines are allocated to Pantawpyin Village to vaccinate the people aged 45 and above.

One vial is used for two people and 500 villagers will get the vaccines, according to Dr Nu Kathy San, township health medical service officer. — Thet Lwin Soe (IPRD)/GNLM



Health workers make medical examination before inoculation in Pantawpyin Village in Maungtaw.

MFF striving for sustainable fishery export growth

MYANMAR Fisheries Federation (MFF) is attempting to grow fishery export regardless of the COVID-19 disruption on maritime trade, closure of land borders and fuel oil price instability.

Chinese market constitutes about 65 per cent of Myanmar's fishery exports. The federation is making concerted efforts to achieve the target recorded last year, MFF stated.

Despite the open season of offshore fishing, Myanmar's fishery export industry is facing a series of challenges such as fuel oil price instability, the surge in container shipping rate, the closure of border posts, disruption of maritime trade and the COVID-19 negative impacts. Consequently, it will harm the export sector somehow in the



The marketable fish products, especially fish, shrimp, eel and crab from Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine State are primarily exported to foreign markets.

long term.

"The fishing industry is experiencing the oil price hike. A 40-foot container costs US\$1,400-US\$5,000. As a result of this,

some businesses are likely to be suspended. The trade route is required to return to normalcy in order to facilitate the trade. If the border post resumes the trade

activity, the trade will go smoothly. The closure of the border posts is triggered by the COVID-19 threats. The cross-border between Myanmar and Bangla-

desh is still open for trade. The federation is planning to export fishery products to Bangladesh. Myanma Port Authority is also ensuring smooth freight flow with non-stop operation. The federation is attempting to tackle these fishery export hurdles, said Dr Toe Nanda Tin, senior vice-president of MFF.

The marketable fish products, especially fish, shrimp, eel and crab from Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine State are primarily exported to foreign markets.

The federation is turning to the Bangladesh market with export potentials. MFF is working together with the stockholders in the supply chain to have sustainable export growth. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Sesame seeds prices soar on low stockpile



The price of black sesame seeds stood only K145,000 per three-basket bag in July, whereas it increased up to K185,000-K195,000 in early September.

THE price of sesame seeds remains in the bull market on the small stockpile, coupled with the Kyat weakening against the US dollar, the pulses trades from Mandalay said.

The price of black sesame seeds stood only K145,000 per three-basket bag in July, whereas it increased up to K185,000-K195,000 in early September, Soe Win Myint pulses depot in Mandalay stated.

"This year, the sesame production is possible to drop compared with the previous years. The extreme weather condition can affect the sesame quality and production," said a grower.

Both raw sesame seeds and value-added sesame seeds are conveyed to China. When the COVID-19 cases fall and transportation barriers are eased, the sesame market will raise its head again for sure, a depot owner from Bayintnaung whole-

sale market said.

Myanmar's sesame seeds export has earned US\$292.28 million in the past eight months (October-May) of the current financial year 2020-2021, according to data released by Myanmar Customs Department.

Normally, Myanmar exports about 80 per cent of sesame production to foreign markets. China is the main buyer of Myanmar sesame, which was also shipped to markets in Japan, South Korea, China (Taipei), the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland among the EU countries.

The EU markets prefer organic-farming sesame seeds from Myanmar. Japan prefers Myanmar black sesame seeds, cultivated under good agricultural practices (GAP), and purchases them after a quality assessment. Black sesame seeds from Myanmar were previously

exported to South Korea and Japan.

China usually purchases various coloured sesame seeds from the country, yet, the trade is quite sluggish amid the restriction measures to contain the COVID-19 disease. This year, Japan has not purchased Myanmar's sesame yet.

Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year. Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

Of the cooking oil crops grown in Myanmar, the acreage under sesame seed is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation. About 600,000-800,000 tonnes of sesame seeds are yearly produced.

The volume of sesame exports was registered at over 96,000 metric tonnes, worth \$130 million, in the financial year 2015-2016; \$100,000 tonnes, worth \$145 million, in the FY2016-2017FY; 120,000 tonnes, worth \$147 million, in the FY2017-2018; 33,900 tonnes valued \$43.8 million in the 2018 mini-budget period, 125,800 tonnes, worth \$212.5 million in the FY2018-2019 and over 150,000 tonnes of sesame, worth \$240 million in the previous FY2019-2020, the trade data of Central Statistical Organization indicated. — KK/GNLM

US Dollar exchange rate inches higher to K1,970 in local forex market

THE black market exchange rate on the US dollar edged up K1,970, the money exchangers stated.

However, the Central Bank of Myanmar set a dollar at K1,750 on 13 September. There is a K220 gap between the official exchange rate and the black market rate.

In recent days, the US dollar exchange rate reached a record-high of K2,000.

To regulate the dollar gain against Kyat, the CBM sold 15 million dollars for the first time on 13 September.

In August, the CBM reportedly sold \$28 million at its auction rate. Kyat is weakening in the local forex market. In a bid to steer its own currency value, the CBM sold about 6.8 million dollars on 3 February 2021, \$12 million in April, \$24 million in May, \$12 million in June and \$39 million in July in the auction market.

The CBM trades the foreign currency with the authorized private banks under the rules and regulations of the FX auction market.

The US dollar exchange rate stood at only K1,330 in January-end, whereas it jumps to K1,970 at present, recording an increase of K640 in eight months.

The local forex market's data showed that the dollar

exchange rate touched the maximum of K1,345 and the minimum of K1,327 in January 2021. The rate moved in the range of K1,335-1,465 in February. It reached the lowest of K1,420 and the highest of K1,550 in March. The rate fluctuated between K1,550 and K1,610 in April. The rate fluctuated between K1,585 and K1,730 in May and it moved to the maximum of K1,595-1,620 in June. The rate stood at K1,626-1,670 in July and it hit the lowest of K1,660 and the highest of K1,682.

In 2020, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October, K1,303-1,330 in November and K1,324-1,403 in December.

In 2019, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate reached a peak of K1,650 in the local currency market. — NN/GNLM

NEWS
IN BRIEF

More SOEs embrace hydrogen

WITH China's carbon neutrality pledge further elevating hydrogen's strategic position in the country, companies are showing more enthusiasm than ever, actively involving themselves in hydrogen power production, storage, refuelling and related businesses.

While more than one-third of centrally administered State-owned enterprises are gearing up to tap China's hydrogen power development, at least 23 provinces nationwide have also announced hydrogen plans by August, according to figures released by BloombergNEF.

Many of them have set transport as their main downstream focus, with companies such as China Petroleum and Chemical Corp, or Sinopec, China National Petroleum Corp and State Power Investment Corp Ltd all coming up with detailed plans for developing hydrogen refuelling stations and hydrogen-powered transportation, it said.—Xinhua ■

EU policy snags are 'encouraging illegal migration'

SHORTCOMINGS in the EU effort to return unsuccessful asylum seekers are "encouraging illegal migration" instead of stemming it, the bloc's watchdog institution warned in a report Monday.

The European Court of Auditors (ECA), which scrutinizes EU policies and finances, found that efforts by Brussels to secure cooperation from countries outside the bloc to take back migrants had "yielded limited results".

Fewer than one in three migrants ordered to leave the European Union actually do — and that ratio drops to less than one in five when the country they are told to return to is outside the European continent.

The ECA's audit of the EU returns policy over the 2015 to mid-2020 period — focused on the 10 countries with the biggest numbers of non-returned irregular migrants — said the steps being taken to boost cooperation were "relevant".—AFP ■

Singapore welcomes China's interest in trans-Pacific free trade pact

SINGAPORE welcomes China's interest in the revived Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact, the Foreign Ministry said Monday after a meeting between Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

The two ministers also "reaffirmed the strong ties" between the two countries and discussed ways to further strengthen relations, including by sustaining high-level exchanges.

The Singapore foreign minister "welcomed China's interest in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at The Istana on 14 September 2021. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION/KYODO

Trans-Pacific Partnership," the ministry said in a statement, referring to the official name of the revived version of the TPP.

The pact as originally envisioned fell apart after the United States withdrew from it during the previous administration under Donald Trump.

Singapore and China are also advancing cooperation on their bilateral projects in the Chinese cities of Suzhou, Tianjin and Chongqing while exploring new areas of cooperation such as the digital economy.

Balakrishnan and Wang also discussed ways to deepen cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China, in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-China dialogue this year.—Kyodo ■

Merkel labels Balkans EU accession 'absolute geostrategic interest'



Visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel inspects a guard of honour accompanied by Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic during a welcome ceremony in Belgrade, Serbia, on 13 September 2021. PHOTO: AFP

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel said Monday that EU membership of the Western Balkans region, a theatre of competition between the West,

China and Russia, is of absolute geostrategic interest for the bloc.

EU members "should always keep in mind that there is an absolute geostrategic interest

for us to really accept these countries into the European Union," said Merkel, who steps down as chancellor later this year.

"We see — that there is also influence from many other regions of the world" in the Balkans, she told a joint press conference with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic in Belgrade.

The six Balkans nations — Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia — all aspire to join the European Union and are on different stages on the path towards membership.

Merkel praised the progress made by the Balkans countries on their EU path, but also encouraged "further steps towards

the rule of law, democracy and plurality of the civil society".

She also called for more progress in setting up a common market in the Western Balkans, an initiative launched by Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia.

Merkel in Serbia on Monday, and on Tuesday is due in Tirana to meet Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama and his counterparts from the region. Ever since Croatia became the last country to join the EU in 2013, the appetite for adding new member states has shrunk considerably.

But that has prompted warnings that Brussels risks opening the door to outside influence on its doorstep, notably from Beijing and Moscow.—AFP ■

Aluminium price hits \$3,000 per tonne on tight supply

THE price of aluminium hit exactly \$3,000 a tonne in trading on Monday, the metal's highest level for 13 years, with tight supplies worsened by the recent military coup in Guinea.

The African nation is rich in bauxite rock, from which aluminium is processed.

Aluminium prices had already been soaring before the coup struck at the start of the month, rising by about 40 per cent since January as global economic activity bounces back from the Covid-19 trough.

After striking the highest level since 2008, the base metal used in everyday items eased to \$2,953

a tonne in mid-morning deals on the London Metal Exchange.

"It's all about supply problems driving aluminium prices ever higher," Commerzbank analyst Daniel Briesemann told AFP.

Pushing prices higher are also rising electricity prices in China, which has led to a sag in production at a number of foundries in its western Xinjiang region. Aluminium smelting consumes voracious quantities of energy. Guinea possesses the world's largest reserves of bauxite, the reddish or grey rock, whose aluminium oxide is smelted into aluminium.

Guinea's ruling military



Aluminium prices have been driven up by a drop in production in China and concerns about a coup in Guinea. PHOTO: AFP

has been coming under growing diplomatic pressure after special forces led by Lieutenant Colonel

Mamady Doumbouya seized power and arrested president Alpha Conde.—AFP ■

Taliban probing bank accounts linked to Afghan ex-officials

THE Taliban are investigating the accounts of former high-ranking Afghan government members to check for ill-gotten gains, officials said Tuesday.

The investigation may lead to the freezing of assets and accounts of former civil servants, ministers and lawmakers, an official at Da Afghanistan Bank told AFP, asking not to be named.

A manager of a private bank confirmed a team of “Taliban auditors” had been deployed to the organization to check the accounts of selected

former government officials.

Corruption was widespread and rampant under the administration of former president Ashraf Ghani, and tens of millions of dollars of aid money is believed to have been siphoned out of the public purse.

Ghani himself was accused of taking millions with him when he fled to Abu Dhabi on 15 August as the Taliban entered Kabul, but he has denied the claims and says he is ready to prove his innocence.

On Tuesday, several Taliban officials posted video on



Afghan people stand in a queue as they wait for their turn to collect money from an ATM in Kabul. PHOTO: AFP

their social media accounts purporting to show millions in

cash and gold ingots recovered from the Panjshir residence of

former vice-president Amrullah Saleh. The video, which could not be independently verified, showed Taliban fighters sitting on the floor and counting cash and gold apparently found in suitcases.

One fighter says they discovered about \$100,000 the day after Panjshir fell to the Taliban, and a further \$6.2 million and 18 gold ingots in a later search. Saleh had holed up in Panjshir after the Taliban took Kabul, and the remote highland valley was the last province to fall to the hardline Islamists. —AFP ■

El Salvador president says half a million using new bitcoin wallet



El Salvador became the first country to adopt bitcoin as legal tender alongside the US dollar. PHOTO: AFP

THERE are now more than half a million people using El Salvador's bitcoin wallet, President Nayib Bukele announced.

The country of 6.6 million

people this month became the first to adopt bitcoin as legal tender alongside the US dollar, which has been the official currency for two decades.

“We currently have more than half a million users (of the Chivo wallet),” Bukele tweeted late Monday. The “Chivo Wallet” is an electronic application that Salvadorans can download — earning a \$30 equivalent sign-up bonus in the process — to make cryptocurrency transactions. Bukele added that the wallet's technical errors had mostly been resolved, and the software would be fully operational in days.

The initial rollout had met with difficulties as the Chivo software had crashed, with bitcoin losing some 17 per cent of its value at one point. But Bukele wrote in his Twitter thread that “every day more and more businesses accept payments in bitcoin or dollars”. —AFP ■

Cryptocurrency litecoin spikes briefly on bogus announcement

THE price of litecoin briefly surged on Monday following a fake press release saying Walmart had agreed to a partnership with the cryptocurrency.

The digital currency jumped around 30 per cent following the publication on GlobalNewswire of the bogus news release, which resembled official press releases on the financial newswire.

Litecoin shot up to \$230 from \$175 in the moments after the “news” was relayed on other media. However, the move quickly reversed after the hoax was exposed. Near 1615 GMT, the exchange rate had retreated to around \$179.

A spokesman for Walmart confirmed to AFP that the information was false. A statement on GlobalNewswire posted at 1518

GMT advised readers to “disregard the news release ‘Walmart announces major partnership with Litecoin.’” —AFP ■



The price of litecoin briefly surged on Monday following a fake press release saying Walmart had agreed to a partnership with the cryptocurrency. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bioscience firm claims will bring back extinct woolly mammoth

It is the elephant in the genomics room: can extinct species be resurrected? One bioscience firm insists they can, announcing Monday its intent to use emerging technology to restore the woolly mammoth to the Arctic tundra.

New company Colossal, capitalizing on a partnership with a Harvard geneticist, said its species “de-extinction” effort has the potential to anchor a working model for restoring damaged or lost ecosystems and thereby help slow or even halt the effects of climate change.

“Never before has humanity been able to harness the power of this technology to rebuild ecosystems, heal our Earth and preserve its future through the repopulation of extinct animals,” Colossal chief executive and co-founder Ben Lamm, an emerging technology entrepreneur, said in a statement. “In addition to bringing back ancient extinct species like the woolly mammoth, we will be able to leverage our technologies to help preserve critically endangered species that are on the verge of extinction and restore animals where humankind had a hand in their demise.” —AFP ■

Solar farm in shape of lion to power Britain's largest zoo

A giant solar farm in the shape of a lion is to be built to help provide power to Whipsnade Zoo, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) announced Monday.

The solar lion will span over 0.8 hectare and provide a third of the zoo's electricity under a plan to radically reduce its carbon footprint.

Although the lion will not be visible at ground level, it will be visible to air passengers flying overhead, the ZSL said.

Whipsnade in Bedfordshire is 48 km north of London, home to its sister zoo, the ZSL's London Zoo.

“The ‘solar lion’ will be constructed at the opposite end of the zoo to the Whipsnade White Lion, ‘bookending’ the huge Zoo with a second, enormous lion figure, and, although it will not be visible from the surrounding hills, will create a spectacle to be seen from the skies,” said a ZSL spokeswoman.

“The ‘solar lion’ is part of Whipsnade Zoo's mission to make itself net zero carbon by 2035. Other plans to achieve this include reducing emissions caused by electricity and fossil fuel use for heating by 50 per cent by 2030, as well as engaging with the zoo's supply chain to reduce indirect emissions,” she added.

Owen Craft, the zoo's chief operating officer, said: “As a global conservation charity, we know only too well the devastating effect climate change is having on the world's wildlife, as well as on the survival of our own species.” —AFP ■

Malaysian PM, opposition in deal to boost stability



Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob (R) and representatives of the opposition, led by Anwar Ibrahim (2nd L), signed the agreement in parliament. **PHOTO: MALAYSIA'S DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION/AFP**

MALAYSIA'S new government signed an agreement to cooperate with the opposition Monday in exchange for a promise of reforms, a bid to bring stability after intense political turbulence.

Less than a month after taking office following the collapse of his predecessor's short-lived government, Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob has extended an olive branch to his rivals.

The new administration's

arrival has lowered the political temperature — at least in the short term — and fuelled hopes that officials will be able to focus on fighting a serious coronavirus outbreak.

Ismail Sabri and representatives of the opposition, led by Anwar Ibrahim, signed the agreement in parliament, as the legislature convened Monday for the first time since the new premier took power.

The premier said in a statement that his administration and the Pact of Hope opposition alliance had made “national history” with the deal.

It covers areas including fighting Covid-19, parliamentary reform, ensuring judicial independence, among other things, and is aimed at helping to “put aside political differences”, the statement said.

There were few immediate further details.

Ismail Sabri had previously proposed reforms including a law to block political defections, and limiting the premier's term to 10 years, although it was not clear if these would be included.

The premier has only a slim majority in parliament, and the deal will help to shore up his support.

In his opening address to parliament, the king, Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, said he “appreciated the efforts towards realizing a new bipartisan approach involving all sides, that will build a new political landscape”. — AFP ■

UN chief urges donors to give Afghans ‘lifeline’

UN chief Antonio Guterres on Monday urged countries to dig deep and provide desperately needed aid to Afghans, and to support women and others whose rights appear threatened by the Taliban.

Speaking to ministers gathered for a donor conference for the violence-torn country, Guterres insisted that “the people of Afghanistan need a lifeline”.

“After decades of war, suffering and insecurity, they face perhaps their most perilous hour,” he said at the UN's European headquarters in Geneva.

“Let us be clear: This con-

ference is not simply about what we will give to the people of Afghanistan. It is about what we owe.” The UN Secretary General's comments came just under a month after the Taliban swept into power in Afghanistan, sparking a chaotic exit for the United States and its allies after 20 years in the country.

As the meeting ended, UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said donor countries pledged a total of \$1.2 billion in aid, but did not say how much was earmarked for the UN appeal for emergency assistance.—AFP ■



Afghan women in Kabul last week. Guterres highlighted the need to protect the gains made for women and girls over the past two decades. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cuban scientists reject ‘Havana Syndrome’ claims

CUBAN scientists said Monday there was no evidence for claims of US diplomats coming down with so-called “Havana Syndrome” on the island.

The mysterious affliction is said to cause headaches, nausea and possible brain damage, and is speculated to be caused by electronic weapons possibly wielded by a US rival such as Russia.

Several suspected cases have been reported among US officials and intelligence officers since 2016, first in Cuba, then in China, Germany, Australia, Taiwan and in Washington itself.

But a panel convened by the government of Communist Cuba — 16 experts in a variety of fields and affiliated to the Cuban Academy of Sciences — said the claims were not “scientifically acceptable,” and there was “no scientific evidence of attacks” of this nature on Cuban soil.

“We conclude that the narrative of the ‘mysterious syndrome’ is not scientifically acceptable in any of its compo-

nents,” the panel said in a report published on Cubadebate, an official news site of the one-party state.

In July, the New Yorker magazine reported there had been dozens of new “Havana Syndrome” cases among US officials in Vienna, Austria since the beginning of 2021.

Last month, US Vice-Pres-

ident Kamala Harris delayed a trip to Vietnam after the US embassy in Hanoi reported a possible case, raising concerns she could be a target.

‘No novel syndrome’

The Cuban expert report said some have accepted “as an axiom that attacks occurred in Havana.”—AFP ■



The US Embassy building in Havana, where US diplomats experienced the first apparent “Havana Syndrome” attacks, which some experts attribute to targeted microwaves. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

World Heritage site Bamiyan artifacts pillaged amid Afghan turmoil

EXCAVATED Buddha heads and other items have been looted from the storage facility of a French archaeological team involved in conserving and restoring the famous Bamiyan site in central Afghanistan, a UNESCO World Heritage site, it was learned Monday. It is believed that miscreants took advantage of the confusion that followed the Taliban's takeover of area in the first half of August to loot the artifacts, according to local residents and Japanese archaeologists whose warehouse was also targeted. In 2001, when the Islamists were previously in power, they blew up and destroyed the two 6th century Great Buddhas of Bamiyan, carved into cliffs, based on an extreme interpretation of Islam that forbids idolatry. The warehouse of the French corps stored valuable excavations from the vicinity of the “Eastern Buddha”.—Kyodo ■

French far-right pundit edges closer to presidential bid

FRENCH far-right pundit Eric Zemmour is inching closer to announcing a run for the presidency, a move that would create fresh uncertainty around next year's election race.

French far-right pundit Eric Zemmour is inching closer to announcing a run for the presidency, a move that would create fresh uncertainty around next year's election race. Zemmour and the channel he works for, CNews — derided by critics as a “French Fox News” — announced Monday the 63-year-old would step down from his role as a prime-time commentator. The move was sparked by France's CSA media regulator ruling last week that Zemmour should be considered a politician, not a journalist, meaning his access to TV and radio should be subject to limitations.—AFP ■

Biden stumps on eve of California governor recall

PRESIDENT Joe Biden hit the hustings in California on Monday, warning voters they risk a Donald Trump-style governor if they vote to recall the state's leader.

The world's fifth biggest economy is coming to the end of a \$280 million ballot on kicking the Democratic Party incumbent out of office, in an initiative sparked by Republicans angry over mask mandates and Covid lockdowns.

"You either keep Gavin Newsom as your governor or you get Donald Trump," Biden told an

audience in Long Beach.

"The choice should be absolutely clear. You have a governor who has the courage to lead.

"Voting no will be protecting California from Trump," Biden said.

Newsom's main challenger is Larry Elder, a right-wing talk radio star who has openly supported the controversial former president — a figure widely loathed in California.

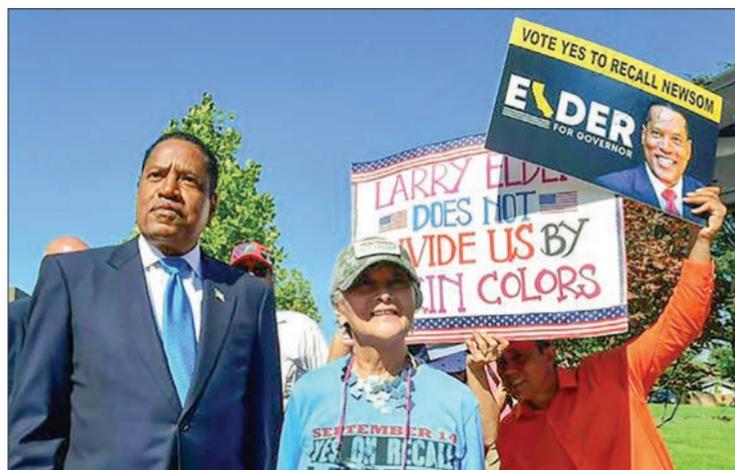
The Black ex-lawyer is polling at atop a field of 46 challengers,

which also includes a cannabis consultant, a former San Diego mayor, and a self-proclaimed "Billboard Queen".

Voters have until Tuesday evening to return a ballot on which they are being asked firstly if they should fire Newsom, and secondly who should replace him.

Newsom needs a simple majority to keep his job, and render the ballot's second part irrelevant.

But should a plurality vote to dump him, then whoever



Newsom's main challenger is Larry Elder, a right-wing talk radio star who has openly supported controversial former president Donald Trump. PHOTO: AFP

polls the highest — no matter how small their majority — becomes governor for the term's remaining 16 months. The recall

is only the second in California's history; the first brought actor Arnold Schwarzenegger to office in 2003.— AFP ■

Fintech and fighter jets: one year on, UAE-Israel ties bear fruit

A year has passed since Israel and the United Arab Emirates normalized ties in a US-brokered agreement, leading to a raft of deals ranging from tourism and aviation to cutting-edge technology.

On 15 September 2020, the UAE became the first Gulf nation to establish formal relations with the Jewish state, and the third Arab country ever to do so after Egypt and Jordan in 1979 and 1994 respectively.

Bahrain signed on the same day, and later Sudan and Morocco also joined the US-brokered



A number of Israeli start-ups in the fields of artificial intelligence, fintech and agriculture have set up shop in the UAE. PHOTO: AFP

Abraham Accords to normalize ties with Israel.

Here are some key issues following the historic deal, which broke with decades of Arab policy that there should be no ties with Israel until it makes peace with the Palestinians.

What were the economic benefits?

The UAE and Israel have sought to emphasise the economic dividend offered by normalization, especially Dubai, which continuously seeks to expand its tourism, technology and

business sector. The two sides have opened embassies in each other's countries and signed a plethora of trade agreements.

Since last year, a number of Israeli start-ups in the fields of artificial intelligence, fintech and agriculture have set up shop in the UAE. Business exchanges between the two countries, whose economies were hard-hit by the coronavirus pandemic, reached \$500 million in August — excluding investments — after tourism, aviation and financial services deals were struck.—AFP ■

Six months after arrest, no trial date for Bolivian ex-president

SIX months after being arrested on coup charges by a Bolivian government allied to her political rival Evo Morales, ex-president Jeanine Anez is still awaiting a trial date. The 54-year-old, who claims she is the victim of "political persecution," attempted suicide in a jail in La Paz last month while suffering from "severe depression" due to her prolonged pre-trial detention, according to her daughter, Carolina Ribera.

Last month, a Bolivian court added another six months to Anez's custody, until March 2022, meaning she could spend a year in jail without seeing the inside of a court.

"Evo Morales... is holding her to spread a message of fear to all opposition leaders and all Bolivians who think differently," Ribera told AFP last week.

The conservative Anez had come to power in November 2019

after Morales and senior allies in his Movement for Socialism (MAS) resigned following weeks of protest over his controversial re-election to an unconstitutional fourth term.

As Morales fled into exile after 14 years in power, Anez was

the most senior parliamentarian left and was sworn in by congress as interim president, despite the lack of a quorum, with MAS legislators boycotting the session. Morales and his allies claimed they had been the victims of a right-wing coup.—AFP ■



Former Bolivian president Jeanine Anez faces charges of 'genocide,' leading a coup, terrorism, sedition, conspiracy and failure to perform official duties. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Blinken asks Pakistan to 'line up' in pressuring Taliban

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called Monday on Pakistan to deny legitimacy to the Taliban unless they meet international demands, acknowledging concerns that Islamabad has supported militants from Afghanistan.

Testifying before Congress on the Taliban victory in Afghanistan, Blinken heard from lawmakers across party lines who pushed for a harder line on Pakistan, an uneasy partner of Washington over the 20-year war.—AFP ■

Japan ex-defence chief Ishiba not running in LDP leadership race

Former Japanese Defence Minister Shigeru Ishiba will not run in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's upcoming leadership race and is leaning towards backing vaccination minister Taro Kono instead, people familiar with his decision said Tuesday. Ishiba, the No. 2 pick to succeed outgoing Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga in opinion polls after Kono, had been considering putting his name forward for the 29 September vote that will effectively determine the country's new leader, but some allies saw his chances of winning as slim and urged him to sit it out. The LDP presidential election now appears to be a three-way contest between Kono, former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and former communications minister Sanae Takaichi.—Kyodo ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

ONE Championship to launch Revolution Event on 24 September

A special event of the ONE Championship named "Revolution" featuring bouts of world-class fighters will be held at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore on 24 September, according to an official announcement of the ONE Championship.

There will be a total of 11 fights: ten men's fights plus one women's bout.

"It's going to be an epic night to remember with three incredible World Title fights headlining ONE: REVOLUTION on 24 September!", ONE Championship officials said.

"In the main event, ONE

Lightweight World Champion Christian Lee stands on the brink of clearing out the top five contenders in the division, but standing in his way is upset king Ok Rae Yoon.

The Korean veteran is riding high off a hard-fought win over Eddie Alvarez, so get ready for an explosive battle.

Plus, ONE Bantamweight Kickboxing World Champion Capitan guns to make it three straight knockouts in his first World Title defence against Muay Thai and Kickboxing World Champion Mehdi Zatout, while ONE Strawweight World Champion Joshua Pacio fights

to retain the Philippines' last remaining ONE World Title in a thrilling trilogy against former kingpin Yosuke Saruta.

They are joined on the main card by former ONE Featherweight World Champion Martin Nguyen, a heavyweight showdown between Amir Aliakbari and Anatoly Malykhin, as well as teenage phenom Victoria Lee," the ONE officials added.

The ONE event will be streamed live free on ONE YouTube Channel and ONE Super Mobile Application starting from 4:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 24 September. — GNLM ■

US PGA Tour's Zozo Championship to go ahead in Japan

THE US PGA Tour's Zozo Championship will be held in Japan as planned next month, organizers announced Tuesday, after fears it could be moved for the second year running because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The inaugural edition of Japan's first US PGA Tour event in 2019 was memorably won by Tiger Woods, but last year's tournament was moved to California because of the virus.

There had been speculation it could be relocated again this year, after the other two tournaments on the US PGA Tour's "Asian Swing" fell victim to the pandemic.

The CJ Cup, beginning 14 October, has been moved from South Korea to Las Vegas, while Shanghai's World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions, scheduled for 28-31 October, has been cancelled for the second successive year.

But PGA Tour chiefs said Tuesday that the Zozo Championship would go ahead as planned at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club in Chiba, east of Tokyo, from 21-24 October.

A decision on whether fans will attend has yet to be taken.

"We are confident our tournament will showcase world-class golf once again," US PGA Tour's international executive vice-president Ty Votaw said in a statement. The Zozo Championship was launched to great fanfare in 2019, with Woods thrilling huge crowds.

The 15-time major winner led from gun to tape to finish three strokes clear of local favourite Hideki Matsuyama, with Rory McIlroy third. — AFP ■

Allegri's Juve rebuild off to rocky start following Ronaldo exit



Massimiliano Allegri won five Serie A titles in his first spell at Juventus but is off to a rocky start this season. **PHOTO: AFP**

MASSIMILIANO Allegri is the man who has taken Juventus closest to their dream of Champions League glory in recent

seasons, but he begins this season's European campaign in the midst of a dreadful start to the season which has put their

domestic credentials under the spotlight.

The 52-year-old was pelted with eggs by fans when he arrived for his first spell at Juve in 2014, due to the rows in which he was involved with Juve while managing Milan and the fact he was replacing club legend Antonio Conte, but he won over supporters by leading Juve to five straight league titles and two Champions League finals.

The Old Lady of Italian football tried to go one step further with the shock 2018 signing of Cristiano Ronaldo, who had ended their hopes of a first Champions league title since 1996 the previous two seasons.— AFP ■



The inaugural Zozo Championship in 2019 was memorably won by Tiger Woods at Narashino Country Club for a record-equalling 82nd US PGA Tour victory. **PHOTO: AFP**